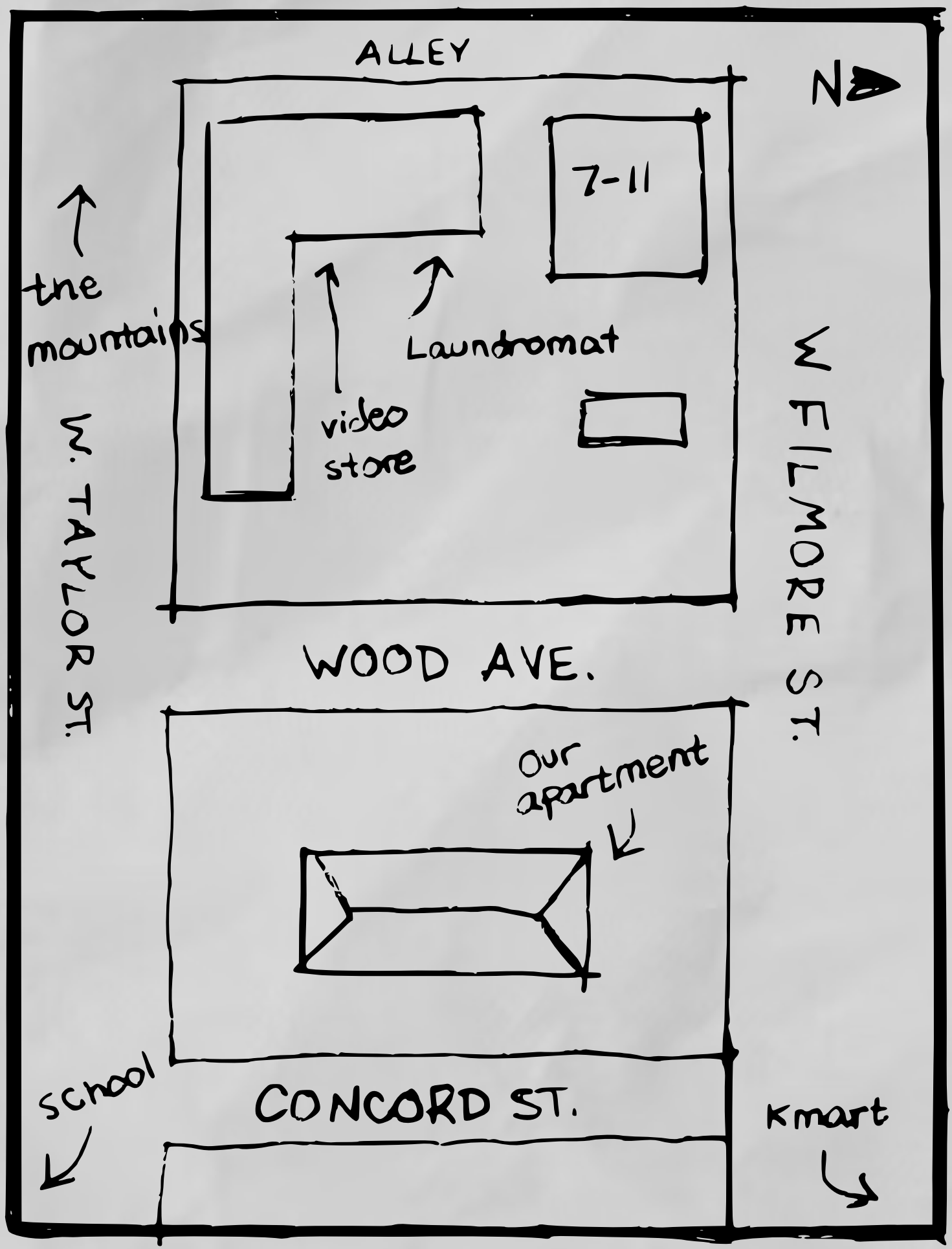
COIN
LAUNDRY


ALLEY
N
7-11
the mountains
Laundromat
video store
W. TAYLOR ST.
W FILLMORE ST.
WOOD AVE.
our apartment
CONCORD ST.
school
Kmart

My earliest memory of a laundromat was loading our clothes into the car to ease the burden of taking them to the laundromat a block away. The laundromat was at the end of a small strip mall which divided a neighborhood of modest, older homes and apartment buildings from a busy five-lane road. It shared a parking lot with a 7-11 (which is still there), and a video rental store (which isn't). A coin-op carwash was tucked behind everything.

Shockingly little about the neighborhood has changed in 25 years, though the houses cost more, and the local elementary school closed in the early 2010's, replacing my first grade classroom with a local micro-brewery. The nearby Kmart was repurposed into a family-friendly cineplex and a membership gym.

On second thought, everything has changed.

Google tells me the laundromat (called Lost Sock Laundromat) is still there. Pictures show it looking simple and tidy, a utilitarian place to wash & dry clothes. It's an enduring business model acknowledging the neighborhood's legacy of working class households. It will probably be there forever.

Irony is the opposite of
wrinkly

Things to do at the Laundromat

1) Meditate
2) Take a walk around the block
3) Read
4) People watch
5) Coloring book
6) Word search/crossword
7) Chat with a stranger
8) Knit/crochet
9) Call a friend and catch up
10) Take photographs

Does anyone else feel like laundry pods are really fancy (in a good way)?

Even liquid laundry soap feels extravagant.

But I grew up in a household that used powdered laundry soap because it was cheaper.